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"THE FUNNIEST LAUGH-OUT-LOUD AUDIENCE PLEASER
AT THE SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL."
—CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

"THE ROAD IS TWISTED AND SO ARE THE LAUGHS.
THIS ONE IS A WINNER."
—*Rolling Stone*

"A HILARIOUS TALE ABOUT WINNING, LOSING
AND THAT NETHER STATE IN BETWEEN WHERE
MOST OF US MUST LEARN TO LIVE."
—*AP* Associated Press

"A MAGICAL EXPERIENCE."
—*San Francisco Chronicle*



LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE

A FAMILY ON THE VERGE OF A BREAKDOWN



FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES A DIVISION OF THE WALT DISNEY COMPANY PRESENTS A WALT DISNEY PICTURES FILM "LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE" CASTING BY JENNIFER LEE MUSIC BY JAMES NEWTON HOWARD COSTUME DESIGNER JENNIFER LEE EDITOR JAMES NEWTON HOWARD PRODUCTION DESIGNER JENNIFER LEE EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JENNIFER LEE PRODUCED BY JENNIFER LEE WRITTEN BY JENNIFER LEE DIRECTED BY JENNIFER LEE
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IN THEATRES THIS SUMMER

Discussion Group Packet

Film Discussion Guidelines

Next week you will be leading the class in a discussion of the film you just saw. In other words, you will be teaching the class. That's kind of scary at first, but most of the students who have done it really seemed to enjoy it and got a lot out of it. Most of the groups have done some very good things. Here are some guidelines to help you make your class successful:

- Plan enough activities to teach the entire class period. In reality I will need about 5-10 minutes at the end of class to talk about the next film, etc., but it is better for you to have too many activities than not enough.
- The most important thing about class discussion is to involve the class as much as possible. Some ways to do this:
 - Break the class up into small discussion groups of about 5 students to talk about questions you ask.
 - Write the questions you want students to discuss on the board and make sure they know what you want them to do.
 - When students are discussing among themselves all the members of your group should circulate around the room listening in on discussions to help students as necessary and to make sure that they are speaking English.
 - If students aren't responding to your questions it's OK to call on them anyway.
 - It's OK to use Chinese names when calling on students.
 - Have students stand when they talk. This makes it easier to hear them in the back of the room.
- Giving background information on the movie is OK but please don't use information from the textbook; students can read this for themselves. The internet is a great source of new information. Please limit background information and plot summaries to about 5 or 10 minutes.

Activities for Film Discussions

Important: All activities *must* be directly related to the movie. Party games and other activities not related to the movie are not allowed.

You can use any or none of these ideas; it's up to you:

1. Collect questions from other students in your class and put the questions into categories:
 - Scenes or things that happened in the movie that they did not understand or would like to know more about.
 - Slang and idiomatic expressions that they don't know. You should collect these questions before the class so you have time to research them.
 - Discussion questions they would like to talk about, i.e., the last question on the post-viewing homework. One good way to do this is to pass out a sheet of paper to each group and have them write at least one student-written discussion question from their post-viewing homework to discuss with the class.

Combine similar questions and then plan for some time during your class to discuss questions in each category.

2. Write up a summary of the movie plot and then print a copy for each group. Cut the copies into strips, one paragraph or sentence on each strip. Mix up the strips and give them to the groups. The groups have to put the strips in the right order.
3. Have students imagine what happened to the characters 5-10 years after the movie was over.
4. Have students write their own questions about the movie then ask them to the class.
5. For the last activity, ask every student in the class to rate the film in stars, 5 stars being great, 4 good, etc. and tell why they think so. Tally the number of stars on the board using English-type tally marks (||||).

How You Will Be Graded

Each member of the discussion group will be graded on a 10-point scale. In order to get all 10 points, you must follow the “Film Discussion Guidelines” in the front of this packet. In addition, you must do at least some of the following:

- Use questions provided by your classmates.
- Display some initiative and creativity in order to keep the class involved and interested in your class session.
- Avoid wasting time.
- Talk with your teacher before your discussion group’s presentation if you are unsure about what to do.
- Involve the class in some activities we haven’t seen before.
- Be well prepared, especially if you are presenting dialog or role plays.

Little Miss Sunshine

Possible Topics for ESL Class Discussion

1. There is a saying in English that “Beauty is only skin deep.” How does this expression apply to *Little Miss Sunshine*?
2. How do the relationships among members of the Hoover family change from the beginning to the end of the movie.
3. Are people divided into winners and losers in China? If so, how?
4. The two children in the family are named Olive and Dwayne. These names are very unfashionable in America; they are “loser” names. Why do you think they were given loser names in the movie?
5. Compare the dysfunctional family in *Little Miss Sunshine* with the dysfunctional families in *Joy Luck Club*.
6. In America, older people like grandpa in the movie often go into retirement homes where they live with other retired people and apart from their families. How does this compare with the way older people are treated in China? What are some of the plusses and minuses of putting elderly people in retirement homes?
7. Dwayne says that life is just one beauty contest after another, “you know, school, then college, then work”, they are all just kinds of beauty contests. What do you think?
8. Frank quotes Proust when he said that the best years of his life were the years he suffered because they made him who he was. What do you think? Can suffering be a good thing?